Claims

1. The use of a compound of formula (I)

$$R^3$$
 R^2
(I)

wherein

(i) R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and are selected from H, $-CH_2-O-R^5$, $-CH_2-O-SO_2-R^5$, $-CH_2-S-R^5$, $-CH_2-NR^4R^5$, $-CH_2-O-CO-R^5$, $-CH_2-O-CO-NR^4R^5$ and $-CH_2-O-CO-OR^5$; R^3 is =0, =S or $=NR^5$;

R⁴ and R⁵ are the same or different and are selected from H; substituted or non-substituted, unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; substituted or non-substituted benzyl; substituted or non-substituted mono- or bicyclic aryl; substituted or non-substituted mono-, bi- or tricyclic C1-C10 heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S; or R⁴ and R⁵ in -CH₂-NR⁴R⁵ are bonded together and form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a substituted or non-substituted non-aromatic C1-C10 mono- or bicyclic heterocyclyl optionally containing one or several further heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S and optionally comprising one or several cyclic keto groups; with the proviso that when R¹ and R² are both -CH₂-OR⁵ then R⁵ is not H; and with the further proviso that when one of R¹ and R² is H and the other one is -CH₂-NR⁴R⁵, then R⁴ and R⁵ are not substituted or non-substituted monocyclic aryl; or

(ii) R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form an substituted or non-substituted cyclic carbonate;

wherein the substituents of the substituted groups are selected from unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; halogen; mono- or bicyclic aryl; mono-, bi- or tricyclic C1-C10 heteroaryl and non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S; C1-C10 alkyloxy; amino; C1-C10 alkylamino; COR⁶; CONR⁶R⁷; and COOR⁶;

R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different and are selected from H; unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; benzyl; mono- or bicyclic aryl; mono-, bi- or tricyclic heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S;

as well as of pharmaceutically acceptable salts or prodrugs thereof, for preparing a medicament for the treatment of a disorder selected from hyperproliferative diseases, autoimmune diseases and heart diseases.

- 2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the disorder is a cancer.
- 3. A compound of formula (I)

$$\mathbb{R}^3$$
 \mathbb{R}^2
(I)

wherein

(i) R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and are selected from H, -CH₂-O-CO-R⁵, -CH₂-O-CO-NR⁴R⁵ and -CH₂-O-CO-OR⁵; R^3 is =0, =S or =NR⁵:

R⁴ and R⁵ are the same or different and are selected from H; substituted or non-substituted, unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; substituted or non-substituted benzyl; substituted or non-substituted mono- or bicyclic aryl; substituted or non-substituted mono-, bi- or tricyclic C1-C10 heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S; or R⁴ and R⁵ in -CH₂-NR⁴R⁵ are bonded together and form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a substituted or non-substituted non-aromatic C1-C10 mono- or bicyclic heterocyclyl optionally containing one or several further heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S and optionally comprising one or several cyclic keto groups; with the proviso that R¹ and R² are not both H; or

(ii) R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form a substituted or non-substituted cyclic carbonate;

wherein the substituents of the substituted groups are selected from unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; halogen; mono- or bicyclic aryl; mono-, bi- or tricyclic C1-C10 heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S; C1-C10 alkyloxy; amino; C1-C10 alkylamino; COR⁶; CONR⁶R⁷; and COOR⁶;

R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different and are selected from H; unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; benzyl; mono- or bicyclic aryl; mono-, bi- or tricyclic heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroaroms are independently selected from N, O and S;

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts or prodrugs of the compounds of formula (I).

4. A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 3 by reacting a compound of formula (I)

$$R^3$$
 R^2

wherein

R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 3, provided that at least one of R¹ and R² is -CH₂OH; or wherein both R¹ and R² are -CH₂OH and R³ is as defined in claim 3; under conditions suitable for transforming at least one of R¹ and R² into -CH₂-O-CO-R⁵, -CH₂-O-CO-NR⁴R⁵ or -CH₂-O-CO-OR⁵ wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in claim 3.

- 5. A compound according to claim 3 for use as a medicament.
- 6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 7. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, comprising at least one further, pharmaceutically active compound.

- 8. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, wherein the compound according to claim 3 and the further active compounds provide a synergistic therapeutic effect.
- 9. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, wherein the at least one further active compound *in vivo* is susceptible of reacting with glutathione.
- 10. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 7-9, wherein the further pharmaceutically active compound is selected from adriamycin, melphalan and cisplatin.
- 11. A method of treatment of a disease selected from hyperproliferative diseases, autoimmune diseases, and heart diseases by administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)

$$R^3$$
 R^2

wherein

(i) R¹ and R² are the same or different and are selected from H, -CH₂-O-R⁵, -CH₂-O-SO₂-R⁵, -CH₂-S-R⁵, -CH₂-NR⁴R⁵, -CH₂-O-CO-R⁵, -CH₂-O-CO-NR⁴R⁵ and -CH₂-O-CO-OR⁵; R³ is =O, =S or =NR⁵:

R⁴ and R⁵ are the same or different and are selected from H; substituted or non-substituted, unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; substituted or non-substituted benzyl; substituted or non-substituted mono- or bicyclic aryl; substituted or non-substituted mono-, bi- or tricyclic C1-C10 heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S; or R⁴ and R⁵ in -CH₂-NR⁴R⁵ are bonded together and form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a substituted or non-substituted non-aromatic C1-C10 mono- or bicyclic heterocyclyl optionally containing one or several further heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S and optionally comprising one or several cyclic keto groups; with the proviso that when R¹ and R² are both -CH₂-OR⁵ then R⁵ is not H; and

with the further proviso that when one of R¹ and R² is H and the other one is -CH₂-NR⁴R⁵, then R⁴ and R⁵ are not substituted or non-substituted monocyclic aryl; or

(ii) R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form a substituted or non-substituted cyclic carbonate;

wherein the substituents of the substituted groups are selected from unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; halogen; mono- or bicyclic aryl; mono-, bi- or tricyclic C1-C10 heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S; C1-C10 alkyloxy; amino; C1-C10 alkylamino; COR⁶; CONR⁶R⁷; and COOR⁶;

R⁶ and R⁷ are the same or different and are selected from H; unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated C3-C12 cycloalkyl or C1-C10 alkyl; benzyl; mono- or bicyclic aryl; mono-, bi- or tricyclic heteroaryl or non-aromatic C1-C10 heterocyclyl wherein the heteroatoms are independently selected from N, O and S;

as well as of pharmaceutically acceptable salts or prodrugs thereof, to a patient in the need of such treatment.

- 12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the compound of formula (I) is administered together with a further, pharmaceutically active compound.
- 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound of formula (I) and the further, pharmaceutically active compound are providing a synergistic effect in vivo.
- 14. The method according to the claim 13 wherein the further, pharmaceutically active compound *in vivo* is susceptible of reacting with glutathione.
- 15. The method according to any of the claims 12-14, wherein the further pharmaceutically active compound is selected from adriany cin, melphalan, cisplatin.